ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical element is for use in an optical pickup apparatus which comprises first, second and third light source having a wavelength $\lambda 1$, $\lambda 2$ ($\lambda 1 < \lambda 2$), and $\lambda 3$ ($1.6 \cdot \lambda 1 \leq \lambda 3 \leq 2.0 \cdot \lambda 1$ and $\lambda 2 < \lambda 3$) and a light converging system including the optical element. The light converging system converges a light flux from the first light source onto a first optical information recording medium through a protective layer having a thickness t1, converges a light flux from the second light source onto a second optical information recording medium through a protective layer having a thickness t2 ($0.8 \cdot t1 \leq t2 \leq 1.2 \cdot t1$), and converges a light flux from the third light source onto a third optical information recording medium through a protective layer having a thickness t3 ($1.9 \cdot t1 \leq t3 \leq 2.1 \cdot t1$).